



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 1
5 POST OFFICE SQUARE, SUITE 100
BOSTON, MA 02109-3912

May 5, 2014

Honorable Rosa DeLauro
United States House of Representatives
59 Elm Street
New Haven, CT 06510

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

RE: Sewage Overflows in New Haven, CT

Dear Representative DeLauro:


Thank you for contacting the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) about the concerns of your constituents, Heike Karsch and Gerald Valentine, regarding potential sewage flows into the Under Air Rights Garage (UARG) and the Temple Street Garage (TSG) in New Haven, Connecticut.

The US EPA shares your constituents' concerns about the potential health risks posed by sewage overflows. In consultation with Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP), members of my staff are actively investigating this matter. In December 2013, my staff conducted a Compliance Evaluation Inspection of the Greater New Haven Water Pollution Control Authority's (GNHWPCA), focusing on operation and maintenance of its wastewater collection system. In February 2014, my staff sent requests for information to the GNHWPCA and to the City of New Haven regarding potential combined sewer overflows to the UARG, the TSG, and city streets during large storm events. In April 2014, my staff conducted an audit of the City of New Haven's compliance with the Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer System (MS4) general permit issued by CT DEEP. Your constituents have shared helpful information with our office, and my staff are giving this information full consideration in their investigation.

Elimination of sewage overflows in New Haven will require significant investment in infrastructure improvement, replacement and maintenance by the City of New Haven and the GNHWPCA. Please be assured, however, that our office intends to verify that every effort is made to address this and related conditions.

If you or your constituents have questions, they may contact Jack Melcher, of my staff, at (617) 918-1663.

Sincerely,



H. Curtis Spalding
Regional Administrator

cc: Greg Spraul – OCIR
Heike Karsch

Nancy Stoner - OW
Gerald Valentine